

Personal Packing Guide

This guide, developed from Mars Society Australia experience with the JNT-1 and Expedition Two documents should help you prepare for the trip. Remember that space will be scarce, so take your time and make an effort to reduce the weight and volume of your luggage. Throwing everything you can get your hands on into several bags at the last minute is a bad idea, since you'll need to be able to easily access your belongings and we don't want to overload the vehicles.

In July the weather in the desert regions we will be visiting should be mild during the day and cool at night (mean temperature range at Arkaroola in August is 4-18°C, but it can go below zero at night and above 30°). We'll be hiking out in bright, dry, dusty, places, so you'll need appropriate clothing, a backpack, good hiking boots, sunglasses and a sun hat. This is only a guide to personal items.

Expedition crew may also need to bring specialised equipment for the survey/experimental work, such as maps, compasses, binoculars, sample containers, rock hammers, laptops, floppy disks, GPS receivers, video cameras, recording media, etc., depending on their work assignments.

General clothing.

Hiking boots, shoes, socks, spare laces. A good brimmed sun hat. Thongs or waterproof sandals are a good idea for showering. Lighter shoes can be worn round camp or when travelling. You will need a small bath towel. Two shortsleeved shirts or tee shirts, one or two long-sleeved shirts for cool weather/night and against insects. Trousers or jeans, Light windcheater, one warm jumper or coat, windproof raincoat yes, it can rain). Underwear, handkerchiefs, pyjamas or a track suit for sleeping. A woollen hat and gloves would be useful at night.

Toiletry bag.

Soap, razors/feminine hygiene products, small mirror, pack of chux (for face washers), premoistened baby wipes. 30+SPF sunscreen, lip balm, deodorant, toothbrush, paste. 'Rid' personal insect repellent, mosquito net, personal torch with spare batteries (very important, since insects are a serious problem in some areas). Prescription medication, contact lens kit, spectacles, sunglasses (any crucial items should be duplicated in case of loss/breakage). It should be possible to pack all of this into a bag about 500mm x 350mm x 350mm.

Day bag.

Camera and plenty of film, spare batteries. Diary/notebook, pens, small magnifying glass, watch, wallet with drivers license, credit cards etc. A good Leatherman tool or Swiss army knife can be quite useful. A card or paper with personal emergency information, who to contact in case of emergency, any special medical needs, etc. Make sure you have 2 L of water with you if working from a vehicle, 4L if spending the day on foot.

Sleeping bag and linen.

A sleeping bag and pillow is optional. Please bring a towel.

First aid gear.

It is not necessary for each person to carry anything more than a very rudimentary small first aid kit. This might include bandaids, chopstick, a small bandage, safety pins, painkillers, a pair of nail scissors, pair of tweezers, disinfectant, eyedrops. The Flying Doctor Service can be contacted for anything serious. Bring any personal medication you may need as well.

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Electronic gear. The outback can be tough on your hardware. It will be a good idea to both pad your delicate equipment against shocks/vibration, and seal it in an airtight bag against dust. If your video camera, laptop, or other special piece of equipment has a 12 volt power pack then please bring it. Bring plenty of spare batteries to guard against power failures at the crucial moment.